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City of Cardiff Education Committee.

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR 1918

OF THE

SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER.

EDWARD WALFORD, M.D., D.P.H.

School Medical Officer, Cardiff Education Authority;
Medical Officer of Health, City and Port of Cardiff.

CARDIFF:
S. GLOSSOP AND SONS, LTD., NEW STREET.

1919.

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Medical Inspection Staff.

School Medical Officer :

EDWARD WALFORD, M.D., D.P.H.

Assistant School Medical Officers :

*A. F. BERNARD SHAW, M.D., D.P.H.
EMILIE C. CREASER, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Specialists—School Clinic :

Ophthalmic Surgeon : D. LEIGHTON DAVIES, M.D., F.R.C.S.
Surgeon (Ear, Nose and Throat) : J. O. WADE, M.B., B.S.
Dentist : C. J. HURRY RICHES, L.D.S. (Eng.).
Anæsthetist : ERIE EVANS, M.B.

School Nurses .

*AGNES C. BRODIE.
ELLEN WHITING.
CHRISTINA WALSH.
MARGARET SNELL.
*FRANCES H. JONES.
INDIANA P. EBBETT.
PHŒBE A. JOHN.

Clerks :

*THOMAS CHANT.
*THOMAS MILLS.
JOYCE KELWAY.

* On military service during the year 1918.

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CARDIFF EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

CITY HALL,
CARDIFF,
May, 1919.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE CARDIFF EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit for your consideration my Tenth Annual Report upon the Medical and Sanitary Supervision of the Schools under your control, including an account of the medical inspection and treatment of children attending the Public Elementary Schools in the City of Cardiff during the year ended 31st December, 1918.

A grant of £1,024 8s. 2d. was received from the Board of Education for medical inspection and medical treatment for the financial year ended March 31st, 1918.

There are thirty-seven Public Elementary Schools in the City, with accommodation for 33,311 scholars. The average attendance during the year 1918 was 28,922.

The Board of Education, in a circular letter issued to Local Education Authorities, recognise that in view of the abnormal conditions arising out of the War, it will be impossible for the School Medical Officers during this period to present detailed and comprehensive reports, and that in view of the urgent need for economy it is desirable that the cost of producing reports should be kept as low as possible. In consideration of these special circumstances, the Board will accept for the year under consideration a short report, of a comparatively simple nature, indicating the character and volume of the work done and the results of following-up and treatment.

In accordance with the advice of the Board, the report for this year will be reduced in scope and volume, and will include only the necessary records of work carried out by the Medical and Nursing Staff.

ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS.

The Medical Officer of Health acts as School Medical Officer, and is directly responsible to the Education Committee, having two Assistant Medical Officers, who also act as Assistants to the Medical Officer of Health. The clerical work relating to medical inspection and treatment is carried out in the office of the Medical Officer of Health, and the Assistant Medical Officers and the School Nurses have office accommodation in the Public Health Department. The two services are therefore in close association, and form, in fact, one organization.

Dr. A. F. Bernard Shaw, Assistant Medical Officer, who was appointed in October, 1912, has been absent on military duty since August, 1914. He was demobilized in February, 1919, and returned to civil duty shortly afterwards. His place has been taken by temporary Medical Officers.

Dr. Emilie Creaser acted as Assistant Medical Officer during the greater part of the year, but in December, 1918, she relinquished her duties under the Education Authority, and was appointed as a whole-time Assistant Medical Officer of Health, for Maternity and Child Welfare Work.

Dr. Eric Evans and Dr. C. W. Shepherd, were engaged temporarily to act as Medical Officers for Medical Inspection work during the year.

In these circumstances the Education Authority determined to make another appointment, and this will be carried out shortly by the appointment of a whole-time Lady Medical Officer.

It is obvious that under the provisions of the Education Act, 1918, further additions to the Medical Staff will be required.

There are seven School Nurses on the Staff, two of whom, during the year, were absent on military duties.

Two Nurses assist in the routine and special inspection of children. One Nurse devotes the whole of her time to duties in connection with the School Clinic. One Nurse is responsible for the "following up" of cases, and she is assisted by the other Nurses. Two Nurses help at the Clinic on the days when operations are performed for tonsils and adenoids, and when the Dentist is in attendance, and also in the treatment of minor ailments.

An arrangement has been made by the Education Committee with the Queen Victoria Jubilee Nurses' Institute for their Nurses to assist in the treatment of minor ailments, by visiting the children in their homes, and carrying out the treatment advised at the Clinic. The Cardiff Education Committee contribute £30 a year to the Nurses' Institute for services rendered in connection with this work.

School Clinic.

Ophthalmic Department.—This work is undertaken by an Ophthalmic Surgeon (Dr. Leighton Davies) who devotes one half-day a week to treatment of diseases of the eyes and defective vision.

Ear, Nose and Throat Department.—A Specialist (Dr. J. O. Wade) attends one half-day a week for treatment of diseases of the ear, nose and throat (chiefly tonsils and adenoids).

Dental Clinic.—The Dentist (Mr. C. J. Hurry Riches) visits the Schools one session weekly to examine children between the ages of 6 and 8, and the parents of children requiring treatment are notified. Suitable cases, upon application, are treated by him at the Clinic, also other cases specially recommended by the Assistant Medical Officers. He attends at the Clinic two half-days a week to carry out treatment.

Dr. Erie Evans administers anæsthetics at the Dental Clinic and Ear, Nose and Throat Clinics.

Minor Ailments.—The treatment of minor ailments, including ringworm, scabies and common skin diseases, is carried out under the supervision of the Assistant Medical Officers, on two half-days a week. The School Nurses and Queen's Nurses give valuable assistance in carrying out, at the homes of the children, the treatment prescribed.

Cleansing Station.

During the year, 86 children suffering from scabies were treated at the Cleansing Station by the School Nurses. Altogether 155 baths were given.

Examinations by School Nurses.

Special examinations by School Nurses for detecting neglected and verminous conditions :—

Children examined	26,252
Children found to be neglected or verminous	1,146
Re-examinations of children found to be neglected or verminous	791
Children found upon re-examination to have been cleansed	518

In connection with this work 1,146 first and 273 second notices were sent to parents.

Insufficient Clothing, Etc.

In the course of routine and special medical inspection 48 children were found to be insufficiently clothed, and 10 to have unsatisfactory footwear. Most of these cases were either remedied or improved, as will be seen on reference to Table IV.

Action Taken with a View to Detecting and Preventing the Spread of Infectious Diseases.

This work is closely associated with the administration in the Department of the Medical Officer of Health. Notices are sent to the Head Teachers immediately after the receipt of a notification from a medical practitioner that a child is suffering from an infectious disease, and printed instructions are given to the parent concerned.

Information received by the School Medical Officer relating to non-notifiable diseases, viz. :—whooping cough, chicken-pox, etc., is, of course, incomplete, although the majority of cases amongst school children are notified to the Medical Officer by Head Teachers, upon forms supplied to them. The Assistant Medical Officers, School Nurses, Health Visitors, and School Attendance Officers, also at times give information of such cases. Children found to be actually suffering from infectious disease are, of course, excluded from school until they are considered to be free from infection.

Children residing in houses in which there is infectious disease, but who are not themselves suffering from such disease, are, of course, excluded from school when necessary.

TABLE 1.

Number of Children inspected 1st January, 1918, to 31st December, 1918.

A.—Code Groups.

	Entrants						Leavers				Grand Total
Age (Years)	3	4	5	6	Other Ages	Total	12	13	Other Ages	Total	
Boys	7	377	891	614	208	2,097	936	464	...	1,400	3,497
Girls	5	417	883	623	251	2,179	62	750	...	812	2,991
Total ...	12	794	1,774	1,237	459	4,276	998	1,214	...	2,212	6,488

B.—Groups other than Code.

	Special Cases	Re-examinations (*i.e.* No. of Children Re-examined).
Boys	665	269
Girls	692	266
Totals	1,357	535

TABLE II.

Return of Defects found in the course of Medical Inspection in 1918 :—

Defect or Disease	Code Groups		Specials	
	Number referred for treatment	Number requiring to be kept under observation, but not referred for treatment	Number referred for treatment	Number requiring to be kept under observation, but not referred for treatment
Malnutrition	57	1	30	2
Uncleanliness :—				
Head	87	...	39	...
Body	42	...	12	...
Skin :—				
Ringworm :—				
Head	8	...	61	...
Body	7	...	25	...
Scabies	52	...	140	...
Impetigo	54	...	96	...
Other Disease	23	1	52	...
Eye :—				
Defective Vision and Squint	439	...	249	...
External Eye Disease	56	...	34	...
Ear :—				
Defective Hearing	56	...	18	...
Ear Disease	76	...	35	...
Teeth :—				
Dental Disease	466	...	28	...
Nose and Throat :—				
Enlarged Tonsils	456	3	57	2
Adenoids	182	...	50	1
Enlarged Tonsils and Adenoids	49	...	41	...
Defective Speech	3	1	1	...
Heart and Circulation :—				
Heart Disease :—				
Organic	2	6	4	...
Functional	15	8	2	3
Anæmia	51	1	20	1
Lungs :—				
Pulmonary Tuberculosis :—				
Definite	1	...	7	...
Suspected	...	2	17	2
Chronic Bronchitis	6	8	3	...
Other Disease	12	34	14	4
Nervous System :—				
Epilepsy	...	3	5	...
Chorea	1	...	7.	1
Other Disease	4	...	8	1
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis :—				
Glands	10	1	5	1
Bones and Joints	...	1	2	...
Other Forms	...	...	8	...
Rickets	5	2	5	...
Deformities	22	4	5	...
Other Defects or Diseases	48	5	78	6

TABLE III.

Numerical return of all exceptional children in the area in 1918 :—

			Boys	Girls	Total
Blind (including partially Blind) ...		Attending Public Elementary Schools ...	...	...	...
		Attending Certified Schools for the Blind ...	9	12	21
		Not at School	3	8	11
Deaf and Dumb (including partially Deaf) ...		Attending Public Elementary Schools ...	...	...	...
		Attending Certified Schools for the Deaf ...	7	19	26
		Not at School	...	...	...
Mentally Deficient	Feeble-Minded	Attending Public Elementary Schools ...	44	33	77
		Attending Certified Schools for Mentally Defective Children	27	13	40
		Notified to the Local (Control) Authority during the year	5	...	5
		Not at School	3	...	3
	Imbeciles ...	At School	...	...	...
		Not at School	5	3	8
	Idiots ...	... ...	2	1	3
Epileptics		Attending Public Elementary Schools ...	18	9	27
		Attending Certified Schools for Epilepties ...	...	...	...
		Not at School	3	6	9
Physically Defective	Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	Attending Public Elementary Schools ...	17	9	26
		Attending Certified Schools for Physically Defective Children	...	...	...
		Not at Work	9	7	16
	Other forms of Tuberculosis ...	Attending Public Elementary Schools ...	25	20	45
		Attending Certified Schools for Physically Defective Children	...	...	...
		Not at School	10	22	32
	Cripples other than Tubercular ...	Attending Public Elementary Schools ...	36	43	79
		Attending Certified Schools for Physically Defective Children	...	...	...
		Not at School	6	3	9
Dull or Backward* ...		Retarded 2 years	427	281	708
		Retarded 3 years	119	83	202

*Judged according to age and standard.

TABLE IV.

Treatment of Defects of Children during 1918:—

Condition	No. of Defects found for which Treatment was considered necessary			No. of Defects for which no report is available	No. of Defects treated	Results of Treatment			No. of Defects not treated	Percentage of Defects treated
	From previous Year	New	Total			Remedied	Improved	Unchanged		
Clothing	2	48	50	19	31	8	23	...	...	62·0
Footwear	2	10	12	2	10	...	10	...	...	83·3
Cleanliness of Head ...	6	1,272	1,278	423	581	570	11	...	274	45·4
Cleanliness of Body ...	1	54	55	39	16	11	5	...	...	29·1
Nutrition	13	87	100	57	39	3	36	...	4	39·0
Nose and Throat ...	374	835	1,209	266	264	257	4	3	679	21·8
External Eye Disease ..	17	90	107	29	58	39	18	1	20	54·2
Ear Disease	16	111	127	41	56	35	21	—	30	44·1
Teeth	333	2,508	2,841	1,753	673	667	6	...	415	23·7
Heart and Circulation ...	5	94	99	89	5	...	2	3	5	5·0
Lungs	4	60	64	52	12	...	9	3	...	18·7
Nervous System ...	1	25	26	24	...	...	...	...	2	...
Skin	80	640	720	...	720	627	83	10	...	100·0
Rickets	...	10	10	8	1	...	1	...	1	10·0
Deformities	2	27	29	25	4	...	2	2	...	13·8
Tuberculosis ... ... (non-pulmonary)	4	25	29	14	15	1	10	4	...	51·7
Speech	...	4	4	4	...	...	...	...	...	...
Mental Condition ...	...	31	31	...	31*	...	...	...	...	100·0
Vision and Squint ...	383	688	1,071	220	449	418	22	9	402	41·9
Hearing	9	74	83	54	12	9	3	...	17	14·4
Miscellaneous	25	126	151	59	81	43	34	4	11	53·6
Totals ...	1,277	6,819	8,096	3,178	3,058	2,688	300	39	1,860	37·7

This Table includes all defects found during the year from all sources, and all defects treated during the year by the various means available.

*Dealt with under the Mental Deficiency Act, 1913—see page 14.

TABLE V.

Inspection, Treatment, &c., of Children during 1918.

1	The total number of Children medically inspected (whether Code Group, Special, or ailing child)	7,845
2	The number of Children in (1) Suffering from defects (other than uncleanliness or defective clothing or footwear) who require to be kept under observation (but not referred for treatment)	105
3	The number of Children in (1) who were referred for treatment (excluding uncleanliness, defective clothing, etc.)	2,943
4	The number of Children in (3) who received treatment for one or more defects (excluding uncleanliness, defective clothing, etc.)	1.177

This Table includes children examined by Assistant School Medical Officers only.

TABLE VI.

Treatment of Minor Ailments at the School Clinic during the year 1918:—

Disease or Defect Treated	Old Cases (1917)	New Cases (1918)	Totals	Result of Treatment		
				Remedied	Improved	Unchanged
Ringworm	21	71	92	63	25	4
Scabies	16	88	104	87	17	...
Impetigo	3	57	60	50	10	...
Other Skin Disorders	...	34	34	27	6	1
External Eye Diseases	...	4	4	4	...	...
Verminous Condition	1	20	21	18	3	...
Ear Diseases	1	8	9	4	5	...
Other Diseases or Defects	...	14	14	10	3	1
Totals	42	296	338	263	69	6

TABLE VII.

Treatment of Minor Ailments by School Nurses at the children's homes during the year 1918 :—

Disease or Defect Treated	Old Cases (1917)	New Cases (1918)	Total	Result of Treatment		
				Remedied	Improved	Unchanged
Ringworm	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scabies	1	65	66	66	...	...
Impetigo	2	115	117	117	...	...
Other Skin Disorders	...	14	14	14	...	...
External Eye Diseases	...	2	2	1	1	...
Verminous Condition	...	15	15	15	...	...
Ear Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Diseases or Defects	...	5	5	5	...	...
Totals	3	216	219	218	1	...

TABLE VIII.

Treatment of Minor Ailments by the Queen Victoria Jubilee Nurses during the year 1918 :—

Disease or Defect Treated	Old Cases (1917)	New Cases (1918)	Totals	Result of Treatment		
				Remedied	Improved	Unchanged
Ringworm	21	17	38	23	11	4
Scabies	6	11	17	16	1	...
Impetigo	2	15	17	13	4	...
Other Skin Disorders	...	...	...	...	...	...
External Eye Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...
Verminous Condition	1	6	7	7	...	...
Ear Diseases	1	4	5	5	...	...
Other Diseases or Defects	...	8	8	4	...	4
Totals	31	61	92	68	16	8

TABLE IX.

Treatment of Teeth of Children, 6 to 8 Years, at School Clinic.

	No. of Children inspected at School by Dentist	No. of Cases notified for Treatment	No. of Cases recommended by School Medical Officer	No. of Applicants for Treatment	No. Treated	Extractions—Simple		Extractions—By Gas		Extractions—By Ether		Fillings	Anæsthetics administered	Attendances
						Temporary Teeth	Permanent Teeth	Temporary Teeth	Permanent Teeth	Temporary Teeth	Permanent Teeth			
Boys	1,188	1,032	13	269	235	17	...	950	28	203	16	141	206	412
Girls	1,321	972	10	286	231	14	...	899	18	151	9	203	208	412
Total ...	2,509	2,004	23	555	466	31	...	1,849	46	354	25	344	414	824

TABLE X.

School Clinic.—Ophthalmic Department.

	No. of Cases recommended for Treatment	No. of Applicants treated	Spectacles prescribed	Other forms of treatment	No. of Cases known to have obtained Glasses	Attendances
Boys	404	166	96	69	74	387
Girls	368	205	125	81	130	457
Total	772	371	221	150	204	844

The Education Committee paid half the cost of spectacles in 78 cases.

TABLE XI.

School Clinic.—Treatment of Diseases of Ear, Nose and Throat.

	No. of Cases recommended for Treatment	No. of Applications for Treatment	No. of Cases treated	Tonsils and Adenoids	Chronic Otitis Media	Other conditions	Anæsthetics administered	Attendances
Boys ...	417	217	105	82	10	47	82	337
Girls ...	393	195	92	72	6	44	73	283
Total ...	810	412	197	154	16	91	155	620

Mental Deficiency Act, 1913.

During the year, 31 children were examined and dealt with under this Act.

Three of these children were certified as "not incapable by reason of mental defect, of receiving benefit from the instruction in an ordinary Public Elementary School."

Twenty-three children were certified as "feeble minded within the meaning of the Act, but not incapable by reason of mental defect of receiving benefit from instruction in a Special School or Class." These twenty-three children were recommended for admission to Virgil Street School for Mentally Defectives."

Five children were certified as "incapable, by reason of mental defect, of receiving benefit from instruction in a special school or class under the Elementary Education (Defective and Epileptic Children) Act, 1899." These cases were notified to the Local Authority under the Mental Deficiency Act, 1913.

Special School for Mentally Defective Children (Virgil Street).

Medical Inspection was carried out twice during the year.

A book is kept for each child containing an account of his or her family and personal history, medical examinations, and educational progress.

The number of children examined during the year was 23—14 boys and 9 girls.

Oral School for Deaf Children.

At the annual inspection, the number of children examined was 26—19 girls and 7 boys.

TABLE XII.

CAUSES OF DEAFNESS	BOYS	GIRLS	TOTALS
Congenital	7	9	16
Acquired—			
Infective Diseases :—			
Measles	...	2	2
Scarlet Fever	...	1	1
Whooping-Cough	...	2	2
Congenital Syphilis	...	1	1
Diseases of the Nervous System :—			
Meningitis	...	2	2
Undetermined	...	2	2
Totals	7	19	26

School for Blind Children.

The children attending this School are medically inspected annually. Number of children medically examined, 18.

TABLE XIII.

CAUSES OF DEFECTIVE VISION	BOYS	GIRLS	TOTALS
Cataract	1	3	4
Coloboma	1	...	1
Interstitial Keratitis	2	...	2
Corneal Ulcers	...	1	1
Optic Atrophy	1	1	2
Buphthalmos	3	...	3
Nystagmus	...	2	2
Staphyloma of Irides	...	1	1
Staphyloma and Anterior Polar Cataract	1	...	1
Doubtful	...	1	1
Totals	9	9	18

TABLE XIV.

Return of Defects found in the course of Medical Inspection of the Special Schools :—

	ORAL SCHOOL		BLIND SCHOOL		SCHOOL FOR MENTALLY DEFECTIVES	
	BOYS	GIRLS	BOYS	GIRLS	BOYS	GIRLS
Number of Children Examined	7	19	9	9	14	9
Malnutrition	4	1	...	1	1	1
Uncleanliness—Head	...	1	...	...	1	2
Body	...	1	1	1	2	2
SKIN :—						
Ringworm—Head	...	...	...	...	...	...
Body	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scabies	...	...	...	...	...	...
Impetigo	...	1	...	...	...	...
Other Disease	...	...	...	...	1	...
EYE :—						
Defective Vision and Squint	2	3	4	5	2	5
Total Blindness	...	...	5	4	...	...
External Eye Disease	...	...	...	...	1	...
EAR :—						
Partially Deaf	2	1	...	...	1	1
Totally Deaf	5	18	...	...	...	...
Ear Disease	...	2	...	...	...	1
NOSE AND THROAT :—						
Enlarged Tonsils	...	2	...	1	...	2
Adenoids	...	1	...	...	...	1
Enlarged Tonsils and Adenoids	...	...	...	...	...	...
SPEECH :—						
Not Defective	...	...	...	...	...	...
Defective Articulation	5	16	...	...	2	5
Nasal Intonation	...	...	...	...	1	...
Incapable of Articulation	2	3	...	...	...	...
HEART AND CIRCULATION :—						
Heart Disease—Organic	1	...	...	...	...	...
Functional	...	...	...	...	...	1
Anæmia	...	1	...	1	...	...
LUNGS :—						
Pulmonary Tuberculosis—Definite	...	...	...	...	...	...
Suspected	...	...	...	...	...	...
Chronic Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Disease	...	...	...	...	...	...
NERVOUS SYSTEM :—						
Epilepsy	...	...	...	...	...	...
Chorea	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Disease	...	...	...	...	1	...
Rickets	...	...	1	...	2	...
Deformities	1	2	...	...	...	2
Other Defects or Diseases	1	1	...	...	1	...

Medical Inspection and Juvenile Employment.

Arrangements have been made by which the results of the medical inspection of children leaving school are supplied to the Juvenile Employment (Education) Officer. The height and weight, and particulars as to eyesight and hearing of every leaver are given, and in cases of other defective physical conditions, such information is also supplied. In many cases special medical examinations of children are made on request of the Juvenile Employment Officer.

Medical Examination of Teachers.

The medical examination of newly appointed teachers was carried out by the Assistant School Medical Officers upon instructions from the Education Committee. During the year 1918, 11 teachers were examined, and 6 re-examinations were made. Thirty pupil teachers were also examined.

I have the honour to be, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

EDWARD WALFORD,

School Medical Officer.